

**CANTERBURY TALES GUIDE**  
ENGLISH IV  
MRS. PILGREEN

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_

**PROLOGUE BEGINNING**

1. In what month does this story begin?
2. How many pilgrims are there altogether?
3. How is spring described?
4. Why is Thomas a Becket so revered by the pilgrims?
5. Line 20 tells us the narrator's point of view. Who is he?

**THE KNIGHT**

6. What qualities listed in lines 45 and 46 are honorable?
7. The Knight has fought numerous actual battles during the Crusades. What does this tell us about his character?
8. How does his behavior at court contrast with that on the battlefield?
9. How is the Knight dressed? What does this reveal about his character?

**THE SQUIRE**

10. How is the Squire different from his father?
11. Which details illustrate his vanity?
12. What are his chief accomplishments?

**THE YEOMAN**

13. What is the yeoman's job?
14. How does the description of the Yeoman convey his efficiency and professionalism?

**THE PRIORESS**

15. What is a "prioress"?
16. What is wrong with the Prioress' attitude toward her dogs?
17. What impression does Prioress make on the reader?

### THE MONK

18. What is a typical monk's existence like?
19. Does the Monk follow the strict rules of the St. Benedict Brothers? Explain.
20. How does Monk feel about monastic life?
21. What point is Chaucer making when he describes the Monk's physical appearance in lines 197-211?
22. Do you think the Monk observed a vow of poverty?

### THE FRIAR

23. What does the Friar do with girl friends he has grown tired of?
24. After reading lines 2239-254, what can you infer about Friar's character or "heart condition"?
25. How is a friar different from a monk?
26. In what ways is the conduct of his life in conflict with the principles of his order?
27. Find the lines that describe the Friar's clothing. What is significant about the way he dresses?

### THE MERCHANT

28. Based on the Merchant's clothing, what is he trying to hide about himself?

### THE CLERIC

29. What is a cleric?
30. How does the Cleric epitomize a typical student?
31. Why is it significant that Cleric has 20 books?
32. How does Cleric repay his benefactors? Why is this method important?

### SERGEANT OF LAW

33. How does Chaucer describe the lawyer?

### THE FRANKLIN

34. What is a "franklin"?
35. Franklin has made a religion of sorts out of what?
36. What sort of humor does Chaucer employ in describing the Franklin?

### SKIPPER

37. What kind of person is the Skipper? How do we know?

### DOCTOR

38. What actions reveal the Doctor's guile (deceitfulness)?

### WIFE OF BATH

39. Why does the Wife of Bath go traveling?
40. What is significant about the fact that she has been married 5 times?
41. What happens when any one in the Church tries to be the first in line, other than the Wife of Bath?

### THE PARSON

42. How is a parson different from the other churchmen we have met?
43. What is the contrast between Parson and Wife of Bath?
44. What is the significance of the question, "...if gold rust, then what will iron do?"

### THE PLOWMAN

45. What is a plowman?
46. What does he represent?

### THE MILLER

47. What is a miller?
48. How does his appearance reveal his moral fiber?
49. How does Miller cheat when weighing grain?

### THE REEVE

50. What does a "reeve" do?

### SUMMONER

51. What is a “summoner”?

### THE PARDONER

52. What is a "pardoner"?

53. How can an individual be absolved from sin?

54. How does his disheveled appearance reflect his inner depravity?

### FRAMEWORK FOR THE TALES:

55. Where has the narrator stopped to eat and sleep?

56. Who is the host of the inn? What does he suggest?

57. Who will be the judge and what is the prize?

58. How do they decide who will go first?

59. Which 3 pilgrims are presented as the most virtuous members of the group?

60. How many stories must each pilgrim tell on the trip to Canterbury and how many stories on the way back?

### SIMILES

Find 5 examples of similes in the Prologue:

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.

### ALLITERATION

Find 5 examples of alliteration in the Prologue:

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.

### DIRECT & INDIRECT CHARACTERIZATION

Be able to identify examples of each—the prologue is full of examples.